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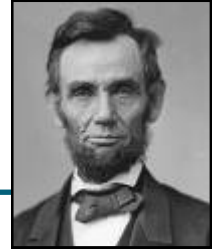
July 2009



Department of State

AMCITS Newsletter

Celebrate Abraham Lincoln this July 4th!



Born dirt-poor in a log cabin in Kentucky in 1809, Abraham Lincoln grew up in frontier Kentucky and Indiana, where he was largely self-educated, with a taste for jokes, hard work, and books. He served for a time as a soldier in the Black Hawk War, taught himself law, and held seats in the Illinois state legislature and in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1858, Lincoln went up against one of the most popular politicians in the nation, Senator Stephen Douglas, in a contest for the U.S. Senate. Lincoln lost that election, but his spectacular performance against Douglas in a series of nationally covered debates made him a contender for the 1860 Republican presidential nomination.

Seven slave states left the Union to form the Confederate States of America when Lincoln was elected President in 1860 and four more joined when hostilities began between the North and South. A bloody civil war then engulfed the nation as Lincoln vowed to preserve the Union, enforce the laws of the United States, and end the secession. The war lasted for more than four years with a staggering loss of more than 600,000 Americans dead. Midway through the war, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed all slaves within the Confederacy and changed the war from a battle to preserve the Union into a battle for freedom. Killed by an assassin's bullet on April 14, 1865, less than a week after the surrender of Confederate forces, Lincoln left the nation a more perfect Union and thereby earned the admiration of most Americans as the country's greatest President.

David C. Jacobson Nominated to be Ambassador of the United States of America to Canada.

On June 4, 2009, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate David Jacobson for the post of U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Mr. Jacobson is currently serving as Special Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel. Prior to serving in the White House, Mr. Jacobson spent 30 years gaining expertise in the areas of complex commercial, class action, securities, insurance and business litigation as a partner at the law firm Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal LLP. While working as a partner at Sonnenschein, Mr. Jacobson also founded AtomWorks, an organization to bring together corporate, civic and academic leaders in order to foster nanotechnology in the Midwest. He also served as a member of CEOs for Cities, a national bipartisan alliance of 75 mayors, corporate executives, university presidents and nonprofit leaders organized to advance the economic competitiveness of cities. Mr. Jacobson received a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and was the Administrative Editor of the Georgetown Law Journal. He received his B.A. from Johns Hopkins University.

H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu): General Information

What is novel H1N1 (swine flu)?

Novel H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. Other countries, including Canada and Mexico, have reported people sick with this new virus. This virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.



What should I do if I get sick?

If you live in areas where people have been identified with novel H1N1 flu and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people.



Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

Take everyday actions to stay healthy:

- Stay home if you get sick. Limit contacts with others to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as germs spread that way.

For more information on H1N1 please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative Goes into Effect; A Smooth Transition ‘Tweeted’

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative went into effect on June 1, 2009. From now on, travelers entering the U.S. from land and sea borders will need to present a passport, passport card, or other WHTI compliant document to enter the U.S.

Several Embassy representatives went to various border crossing points to observe WHTI implementation on June 1 and to inform the public about their experiences using TWITTER. We are excited to explore this and other Web 2.0 technologies to communicate with the public. Our Twitter followers on June 1 included three members of the Canadian Parliament, five members of the U.S. Congress, five U.S. Senators, two Heads of Government, and one U.S. President (Barack Obama).

In total, the Mission reached 29,903 people using the WHTI hashtag and 43,975 people using the border hashtag. We are very please WHTI came without a hitch and look forward to using Twitter more often for new projects.

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/usembassyottawa!



How to Apply for a U.S. Passport—

Apply for a U.S. Passport for the First Time:

You must apply **in person** at the Consulate located in your district (Halifax, Vancouver, Montreal, Quebec City, Calgary, Toronto), or at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, if:

- You are applying for your first U.S. Passport or;
- You are under age 16 or;
- Your previous U.S. Passport was issued when you were under 16 or;
- Your previous U.S. passport was lost, stolen or damaged, or;
- Your previous U.S. passport was issued more than 15 years ago; or
- Your name has changed since you U.S. passport was issued and you are unable to legally document your name change.

When applying for a U.S. passport in person, evidence of U.S. citizenship must be submitted with **Form DS-11**.

Primary proof of U.S. Citizenship includes one of the following: **Certified Birth Certificate** (issued by the city, county or state), **Consular Report of Birth Abroad**, **Certification of Birth**, **Naturalization Certificate**, or **Certificate of Citizenship**. (All documentation submitted as citizenship evidence will be returned to you.)

If you **do not** have primary evidence of U.S. citizenship or your U.S. birth certificate **does not** meet the requirements, please see Secondary Evidence of U.S. Citizenship.

Pay the applicable fee.

Provide two color passport photos, 2 x 2 inches in size, full face on a white background taken within 6 months.

Renew an Expired Passport:

You can renew your passport by **mail** if your most recent U.S. Passport:

- Is undamaged and can be submitted with your application;
- Was issued when you were age 16 or older;
- Was issued within the last 15 years;
- Was issued in your current name or you can legally document your name change.

If the above statements do not apply to you, you must **apply in person**.

To renew your U.S. Passport by mail, you must submit **Form DS-82**, Application for a U.S. Passport by Mail. Locate Form DS-82 and step-by-step instructions at Form DS-82: Application for a U.S. Passport by Mail.

To find more information on applying for a U.S. Passport, please go to www.travel.state.gov
